

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 DAMASC 01542 171305Z

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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Z 171228Z MAR 76 ZFF4

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 6780

S E C R E T DAMASCUS 1542

NODIS

FOR SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, LE, SY

SUBJECT: LEBANON

REF: (A) DAMASCUS 1522 (B) STATE 63334

1. ASAD'S PRIVATE SECRETARY STILL UNABLE (1400 LOCAL)
TELL ME WHEN MEETING CAN BE ARRANGED. ASAD WAS ON NONSTOP
SCHEDULE ALL DAY YESTERDAY INCLUDING SIX HOUR SESSION
LAST NIGHT WITH ARAFAT WHICH BROKE UP AT 0400 THIS MORNING.
OTHER PALESTINIAN LEADERS AND LEBANESE EMISSARIES, INCLUD-
ING PHALANGISTS AND IMAM MUSA SADR, ARE APPARENTLY STACKED
UP WAITING TO SEE HIM.

2. HAVE STRESSED TO PRIVATE SECRETARY DESIRABILITY OF SEEING
PRESIDENT PERSONALLY BUT REQUEST YOUR DECISION, IF I AM
STALLED MORE THAN ANOTHER SIX HOURS, WHETHER TO DELIVER YOUR
MESSAGE THROUGH POLITICAL ADVISOR DAUDI. THIS COURSE WILL
NOT NET US ANY IMMEDIATE PRESIDENTIAL COMMENT BUT IT WILL SERVE
TO REGISTER WITH ASAD OUR STRONG CONCERN ABOUT INTRODUCTION
OF SYRIAN MILITARY FORCES INTO LEBANON.

3. I WOULD PREFER TO WAIT ASAD OUT AND GET PERSONAL MEETING
BUT FULLY REALIZE THERE MAY BE OVERRIDING CAUSES NOT TO DELAY.
MY STRONG IMPRESSION REINFORCED BY REPORT DATT HAS JUST GIVEN
ME OF HIS MEETING WITH EGYPTIAN EMBASSY COUNSELOR, AN ARMY

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COLONEL WITH LIAISON DUTIES WITH PALESTINIANS AND SYRIAN ARMY,

IS THAT ASAD IS WORKING HARD FOR POLITICAL SOLUTION AND MANUEVERING
WITH GREAT CARE TO LIMIT SYRIAN COMMITMENT IN LEBANON. (EGYPTIAN
HAS REPORT SIMILAR TO THAT CIRCULATING IN AREA FOR PAST
48 HOURS, THAT ABOUT ONE THOUSAND SYRIAN REGULARS DISGUISED AS
PALESTINIAN FORCE (SAIQA) ENTERED LEBANON MARCH 15.
EGYPTIAN ADDED THERE MAY NOW BE AS MANY AS TWO THOUSAND
SYRIAN REGULARS IN LEBANON UNDER PALESTINIAN GUISE.)

4. ALL OTHER SYRIAN MILITARY INDICATORS REMAIN INCONCLUSIVE ON
BASIS OUR LOCAL MONITORING.

5. PLEASE ADVISE.
MURPHY

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTERVENTION, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976DAMASC01542
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X2
Errors: N/A
Film Number: P850107-2560
From: DAMASCUS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760353/aaaabudu.tel
Line Count: 74
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: 76 DAMASCUS 1522, 76 STATE 63334
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 OCT 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: WITHDRAWN <22 JUN 2004 by izenbei0, 3.4.X1>; RELEASED <20 OCT 2004 by vogelfj>; APPROVED <02 NOV 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LEBANON
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, MOPS, LE, SY, (ASAD, HAFIZ)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006